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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STATUS OF THE 1937 FARM PROGRAM IN THE EAST CENTRAL STATES

A radio talk by W. G. Finn, Acting Director of the East Central Division, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, broadcast Monday, March 29, 1937, in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Hour, by 59 stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company.

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Thank you, Morse.

First I want to say a few words about progress in completing the work under the 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program in the East Central Region.

We have received in Washington applications for payments covering 95 percent of the farms that participated in the 1936 program. Checks in payment of over two-thirds of these applications have been delivered to farmers and the remaining checks are being issued at the rate of about 35,000 a week. At this rate it is expected that the remaining payments will be sent to East Central farmers in the next 30 days.

An effort has been made to speed up the computation and audit of the applications so that the checks could be written and delivered to the farmers during the Spring planting season.

Now let's turn to 1937, and see what is the status of this year's Agricultural Conservation Program.

With the planting season near at hand, farmers who plan to take part in the program for the first time in 1937 should file work sheets at their county office. Many farmers who did not participate in the Conservation Program last year have already filed work sheets for this year. Filing a work sheet places no obligation on any person and means merely the supplying of information which your local conservation committeemen must have before they can advise you as to the manner in which you can take part in the program. It will help the folks in the county office, and you farmers too, if you'll get your work sheet in this week.

Farmers who took part in the program last year and who are operating the same farm as in 1936, do not need to file work sheets this year. The work sheets which they filed in 1936 can be used for the 1937 program. However, if any change has been made in the land in the farm, or if the farmer is operating a different farm in 1937, the county office should be notified immediately of the change.

Approximately 75 percent of the crop land in the East Central states covered by work sheets filed in 1936. Available information indicates a substantial increase for 1937.

The work of summarizing bases for the 1937 program is rapidly going forward in the county offices. These figures will furnish committeemen in-

formation which may be used in determining necessary adjustments in bases to make them more equitable between farms and to conform to limits established for the county.

When this work has been finished, each producer will be furnished with a statement showing the number of acres on which payment for diversion can be made, the acreage of soil-depleting crops which may be grown on the farm with maximum diversion, and the amount of the soil-building allowance for the farm. The minimum acreage of soil-conserving crops to be grown on the farm in 1937 if maximum payments are to be received will also be shown.

In counties, where a relatively large percentage of farmers participated in the 1936 program, and which are well advanced in making adjustments for this year's program, it is expected that the summary statement can be furnished to the producer within the next two or three weeks. In other counties, especially where fewer farmers took part in the program last year, more time will be required to prepare these statements.

In getting these summary statements to the farmer, we hope that personal contact may be made between the farmer and the county office, either by a visit of the farmer to the county office or through delivery of the statements at some local point in the community.

Through this personal contact the farmer may obtain information which will be helpful to him in planning his farming operations so as to participate to the fullest extent in the 1937 program. The practices which may be carried out on the farm in earning the soil-building allowance may profitably be discussed. In cases where it is not feasible to deliver this information personally, it will be sent by mail.

In closing I want to impress upon all farmers the fact that the county office or your local committeeman will be glad to talk with you about your farming plans for 1937 in connection with this year's agricultural conservation program. We hope that this will enable you better to fit the provisions of the program to the needs of your individual farm.